

American heroes. They gave their lives protecting us, our staffs, and visitors to the United States Capitol. This tragedy reminds us that the members of the Capitol Police and other police officers across the country put their lives on the line for us every day.

We honor Officers Chestnut and Gibson for their bravery and sacrifice. We lost two good men and fine police officers. No words can adequately express our feelings on this sad occasion. Our hearts go out to their families and to their fellow officers.

This tragedy highlights a dilemma as old as democracy itself: the balance between security and openness. We have made a decision—the correct decision, I believe—to maintain public accessibility to the Capitol. The people's business must be open to the public gaze. Every year people from our districts, some traveling literally thousands of miles, visit the Capitol to share their views and urge us to support or oppose this or that bill. They come to partake of the history that walks these halls. They come simply to see us in the flesh, look us in the eye, and take the measure of the men and women whom they have elected to make our laws. Their right to do so is enshrined in the very concept of democracy. Nowhere is it more appropriate to exercise that right than here in the people's house.

At the same time, we can not escape the reality of the world in which we live. There are some individuals who would take advantage of that openness to enter this building and do violence to those engaged in the people's business. Their actions defile this temple of democracy. That is why it is necessary to have a Capitol Police force. Its members not only protect us as individuals, they defend the accessibility of this building, accessibility which is so important to our democracy.

On Friday, July 24, 1998, two of those officers made the ultimate sacrifice. Their bravery and devotion to duty enshrine the names of Jacob Chestnut and John Gibson among the heroes of our nation. We bow our heads in sorrow and gratitude. We pledge to honor their memories by keeping our nation's Capitol open, accessible, and safe for everyone who desires to enter this building, the people's house.

AN EXPRESSION OF CONGRATULATIONS TO COLONIA COUNTRY CLUB ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the officers and members of Colonia Country Club on the occasion of their Club's 100th anniversary.

Colonia, the name of both the Club and the section of Woodbridge, New Jersey in which it is located, is a derivation of the word, colony, a term defined by Webster as "a body of people living in a new territory." Colonia is a most appropriate designation for the community—originally Houtenville—that was the site of many Revolutionary War events. Immediately adjacent to Colonia Country Club is the highway on which George Washington traveled on his way to his first Inauguration. That roadway

was also a main north-south artery during the Civil War and was later named The Lincoln Highway. In Colonia, the highway is also bound, on its east side, by the nation's major east coast rail line.

It was in 1898 that a group of area residents agreed to form a golf and country club, using an Inn constructed just prior to the Civil War as its clubhouse. Designed to serve as a gathering place for sport and social occasions, their new "home-away from home" was to be called Colonia Country Club. Part of their agreement called for the purchase of a horse-drawn lawnmower to trim what would become a nine-hole golf course.

The century that followed will be remembered by the citizens of America and, indeed the world, as one filled with joys and achievements unparalleled in recorded history and with toils and tragedies that would test human endurance. A microcosm of that world, Colonia Country Club rose from a small gathering of neighbors to become a proud and prominent member of its region's social fraternity, the site of a modern clubhouse and one of its region's most challenging 18-hole golf courses. In the process, those that charted the course of its progress proved they had the grit and determination to withstand depressions and years of mid-century decline. Colonia Country Club, like many venerable, sturdy American institutions both large and small, stands today as a model of a modern Americana. It is a story of people overcoming difficulty and proving their endurance as they share prosperity and camaraderie—and it offers its one hundred year history as evidence of that achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, my neighbors in the 7th Congressional District of New Jersey and my colleagues to join me in offering our congratulations to Colonia Country Club as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice today to the much-deserved tributes being paid to U.S. Capitol Police Officers Jacob Joseph Chestnut and John Michael Gibson. This is a sad day for Congress and our nation. Just a few short steps from here two American heroes lay in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. This past Friday these men gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Their honored sacrifice no doubt saved numerous lives and served as a stark reminder of the reality of the violent world in which we live. This tragedy also reminds us of the price that must sometimes be paid for the great privilege of having our democratic form of government.

So today it is appropriate that all of us pause for a moment to thank officers Chestnut and Gibson for what they did last week. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. And we should also extend our thanks to all of the members of the Capitol Police force and all other law enforcement officers throughout our nation. They have an incredibly difficult mission—providing security while serving as

goodwill ambassadors for their communities. They do a terrific job day in and day out and frankly we don't do enough to show our appreciation for all of their hard work.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that this seems like a different place today than it did when I left here on Friday. The tragic events of last week seem to have pulled us together. Democrats and Republicans, Members and staff, as well as so many people of our country have all joined hands in coming to terms with what happened here. If there is a silver lining in these tragic circumstances perhaps it is that we all may gain a little more appreciation for the people we work with on a daily basis and for the wonderful country we are proud to call our own. The differences we have pale in comparison to the bonds we share as Americans. A tragedy like this reminds us of this simple truth and affords us the opportunity for a renewed perspective as we face the challenges ahead.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice made by Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob J.J. Chestnut while conducting their duty protecting the Capitol. I admire the tremendous sacrifice made by these individuals and my thoughts are with their families as they cope with the departure of their loved ones. Like countless others, I did not personally observe the tragedy. But like them, I have been shaken by the event and moved by the warm reception all have provided in memory of the fallen men.

No one can bring back these brave officers who gave their lives to protect us. But I stand today to recognize the risks that our law enforcement personnel face each day. I express the gratitude that I have for the dedication of these people, who each day leave the security of their homes and families to protect and serve those in need all across America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was recorded as voting in favor of agreeing to the conference report on H.R. 629, the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact.

As should be obvious from my vote against the rule providing for consideration of the conference report, I had intended to vote against the conference report itself.

I am in complete agreement with my colleagues from Texas and elsewhere who have fought against the imposition of what could become the nation's major depository for low-level radioactive waste on the largely poor and minority community of Sierra Blanca, Texas.

I understand and share the concerns of Sierra Blanca and other minority communities.